

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to:

PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 16869P-004610US
Client Ref. No.: 219800332US2

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

On January 20, 2004

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP

By: Monique M. Butler



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Yukihiro Shibata et al.

Application No.:

Filed: Herewith

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR
OBSERVING AND INSPECTING
DEFECTS

Customer No.: 20350

Confirmation No. Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

Technology Center/Art Unit: Unassigned

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced application, please enter the following amendments and remarks:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.